(iii) A Textile Package has been announced for modernisation of powerloom sector.

(iv) A chain of textile testing laboratories have been set up to help industry in assessing the quality of textiles.

(v) For import of capital goods, the Export Promotion of Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme has been simplified.

(vi) Export and Import of cotton are under OGL keeping in view the interest of the industry as well as the cotton growers.

(vii) In order to imporve the viability and competitiveness of textile industry, efforts are on to rationalise fiscal duty structure in consultation with industry and other concerned organisation.

(viii) Re-structuring of the support system organisations has been undertaken for re-defining their role and functions in the changed scenario.

(ix) Initiated measures for application of information technology in the textile trade and industry.

Plan to sell off ITDC Hotels

445. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised a plan to sell off some of the major hotels under the India Tourism Development Corporation;

(b) if so, the details of hotels selected togetherwith the terms and conditions of the privatisation; and

(c) whether it is also proposed to downsize the manpower through voluntary retirement or any other apppropriate schemes and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Based on the

recommendations of Disinvestment Commission, Government have decided to disinvest in ITDC hotels. In the first tranche of expression of interest, the following 8 properties of ITDC have been selected:—

(I) *Properties to be offered by ITDC for operating on a long-term structured contract on LEASE-CUM-MANAGEMENT basis:*

1. Ashok Hotel, New Delhi
2. Bangalore Ashok

(II) *Properties in which shareholding to be offered for SALE:*

3. Hotel Agra Ashok
4. Hotel Madurai Ashok
5. Hotel Manali Ashok
6. Hotel Bodhgaya Ashok
7. Hotel Hassan Ashok
8. Temple Bay Ashok Beach Resort, Mamallapuram

In the second tranche of expression of interest following 9 properties of ITDC have been selected:—

(I) *Properties to be offered by ITDC for operating on a long-term structured contract of LEASE-CUM-MANAGEMENT basis:*

1. Hotel Samrat

(II) *Properties to be offered for SALE:*

2. Hotel Kanishka
3. Indraprastha Hotel
4. Qutab Hotel
5. Hotel Janpath
6. Hotel Ranjit
7. Lodhi Hotel
8. Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel
9. Hotel Varanasi Ashok

Disinvestment process is in progress.

(c) ITDC has introduced Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in its Ashok Travels & Tours Division and 98 employees have opted for voluntary retirement and they have since been relieved.